



TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Presenters Announced for THRC Hearing in Nashville

The Tennessee Human Rights Commission will conclude its statewide hearings in Nashville on Monday, May 12, 2014, which seek input from community leaders, researchers and advocacy groups to bring testimony regarding the state of human rights in local communities.

The hearing at the Downtown Nashville Public Library Auditorium begins at 1 p.m. and will last until 4:30 p.m. Both written and oral testimonies will be accepted and included in the forthcoming report, “The State of Human Rights in Tennessee” from the Commission. The final report will include information from those bringing testimony in addition to statistics, trends and information from the Commission’s own work, safeguarding individuals from discrimination through enforcement and education.

Testimony from the following community leaders and organizations about human rights issues facing Nashvillians and Tennesseans include:

- **Mayor Karl Dean** on empowering new Americans
- **JoAnn Kamuf Ward, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School**, on human rights initiatives across the U.S.
- **Eugene Hughley, Kelly Miller Smith Center Against Abusive Behavior**, on prevention of violent crimes
- **Patricia Shea, YWCA of Middle Tennessee**, on the violence against women epidemic
- **Katherine Kores, EEOC**, on discriminatory impact of criminal background checks in hiring
- **Chris Sanders, Tennessee Equality Project**, discrimination facing LGBT Tennesseans
- **Martha Lafferty, Disability Law & Advocacy Center**, on existing disability discrimination
- **Remziya Suleyman, American Center for Outreach**, discrimination faced by Muslim Tennesseans

- **Dr. William Langston & Joshua Rigsby, Middle Tennessee State University**, challenges facing LGBT students in higher education
- **Dr. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Tennessee Economic Council on Women**, economic impact of violence against women
- **Veronica Zavaleta, Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition**, effects of deportation on immigrant families
- **Dan Cornfield & Alistair Newbern, Vanderbilt University**, partnering for an equitable and inclusive Nashville

Inquiries can be made to susannah.berry@tn.gov or by calling Susannah Berry at 1-800-251-3589. For more information and to RSVP to the Nashville Hearing, visit <http://nashvillehearing.eventbrite.com>

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